



The Hancock Lady Hawks pose for pictures Saturday after winning the state Class 5A championship.

Echo staff photos by Joe Gex

Champs -- Lady Hawks win

their last state title and the gold ball from 1980 has lost just a touch its luster perched in the trophy case at the school in Kilm. Now, there is a little shiny something to place right next to it. And, there is no doubt that the trophy case will be illuminated by its mere presence.

The Lady Hawks (29-4) have exorcised all demons and will reign supreme as Class 5A state champions for 2004 after a 60-46 spanking of the two-time defending state champion Jackson Murrah Lady Mustangs on Saturday, March 13, before an estimated 3,000 fans. In the previous two years, the Lady Hawks were shown the exit door by the Lady Mustangs in the quarterfinals of the state tournament.

Jackson Murrah came into the game expecting to win and left the "Big House" dejected and whipped after the Lady Hawks put on a defensive clinic. Junior forward Ashley Boehnel quickly brought some attention to her game for the college scouts as she led Hancock with 21 points, grabbed 13 rebounds, dished off 7 assists and stole 3 balls.

Boehnel commented, "This is such a sweet feeling to be able to beat Murrah for the gold ball. It hasn't really sunk in yet, but it will. We knew that we had to get up on them early and stay in control."

The Lady Hawks did get up on Murrah early. And, stay on them, they did.

Hancock shot out of the starting gate with a 12-0 advantage by the 2:11 mark of the first period. Boehnel scored six points in the first period and Courtney Craft nailed two three-pointers. Erica Moran provided the

other basket for the Lady Hawks as they ended the first period with a 14-4 advantage.

Diamond Rogers, the Lady Mustangs go-to player, was held scoreless in the first period and only four points in the first half.

Rogers has signed to play with the University of Alabama-Birmingham next season and was 8-0 as a starter in the Mississippi Coliseum. The Lady Hawks made sure she left with a blemish on that record.

The Lady Hawks knew that they had to keep up the intensity on both ends of the court to keep Murrah at bay. Amanda Arcement started the second period for Hancock with a trey to put the Lady Hawks up 17-6 with 7:08 to play in the half.

The Lady Mustangs went on 9-2 run to cut the score to 19-15 with about 2:42 left in the first half. Rogers got her four points of the half during this run.

Craft stopped the bleeding for Hancock with a basket at the 1:57 mark. Moran added a bucket and Boehnel pulled out beyond the arc to nail a trey with 42 left to make the score 26-15. The Lady Hawks carried a 27-18 lead into the intermission.

In the third period, the Lady Hawks extended their lead even further. Craft made a driving basket with 6:08 left in the third that pushed the score to 33-20. At the end of the period, Hancock finished with a 7-2 run to move the score to 50-31 heading into the final period.

Hancock knew that Murrah would make a run, but they just didn't know when. Well, the Lady Mustangs confused all night long. The Lady Hawks ripped down 40 rebounds as a team and

held Rogers to less than 20 points which was a team goal. While Rogers led the Lady Mustangs with 18 points she had to earn each and every point as she was double and triple teamed in the paint.

Hancock head coach Pam Slayton recalled, "I guess the third time is the charm. We played some very intense defense and had a season high team rebound figure. Our objective was to keep Diamond Rogers under 20 points. Each player on this team played their position and role. During the game, Courtney Craft and Ashley Boehnel had breakout performances for us.

Amanda Arcement came off the bench and hit some big three-pointers for us. Petra Vackova and Erica Moran were intimidating inside. Brooke Necaise played very solid defense. Lauren Douzant came off the bench and provided some solid minutes on the court. We came out early and sent a message with our game. I am very proud of how hard we played tonight."

The title was the third state championship for Slayton who won two state titles with Salmon in 1996 and 1997. The 2004 championship is also the third state title for the Hancock Lady Hawks program.

Also, the Lady Hawks' win in the 5A final ended a run by Murrah coach Anna Jackson who was previously unbeaten in state title games at 6-0. Jackson is the only woman to win six state titles in any sport. That seventh state title will have to wait, courtesy of the Lady Hawks.

Congratulations to the 2004 Hancock Lady Hawks - Class 5A State Basketball Champions!

tem loses pressure, contaminants can siphon back into the system. Public Health Officials consider any system that has lost pressure contaminated until further test of the water prove otherwise. As soon as pressure is restored to those customers affected, water system officials will begin collecting water samples for testing.

When pressure is restored, officials recom-

mend that consumers vigorously boil for one minute any water to be consumed.

Users will be notified when tests indicate that the advisory can be lifted.

Boil water notice issued in Pass Christian

Total Environmental Solutions will be doing scheduled maintenance on a main line in Pass Christian in Harrison County on Thursday, March 18, 2004 starting at 10:00 am until about 2:00 p.m. All street addresses affected will be: 500 Sandyhook - 717 Sandyhook, 608 Ponce De Leon - 750 Ponce De Leon, 301 Magnolia - 314 Magnolia, 110 Bayou Lane - 710 Bayou Lane, 208

Sunset - 226 Sunset, 304 Cherry Lane - 330 Cherry Lane. You may be without water until we have completed the maintenance. When the water comes back on you will need to boil the water. Lee Purvis, spokesperson for the water system, said this precautionary action is necessary because the system can lose pressure during this procedure.

When a distribution sys-

tem loses pressure, contam-

inants can siphon back into

the system. Public Health

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testing.

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Call Guardian Angel Accounting today for those last minute taxes.

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Our Lady Academy Lenten Dinner

Our Lady Academy will host a Lenten Dinner, sponsored by the 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students and their parents, on Friday, March 19, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., in the lobby of the gym. The menu will consist of a fried shrimp or fried oyster dinner, with hush puppies, salad, and dessert. The cost of the dinner is \$6.00. Take outs will be available.

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Oyster industry, environmentalists concerned with Corps dam study

BY BENNIE
SHALLBETTER

Staff Writer

Members of the oyster industry, who are concerned with degraded coastal waters, and environmentalists, concerned over the loss of wetlands and habitats for the endangered Gulf Sturgeon, are two of the groups who have shown concern over a proposed flood control project upstream on the Pearl River in the Jackson area just south of the Ross Barnett Reservoir.

The project, the two lakes project or the LeFleur Lakes project depending on who you ask, proposes build two lakes totaling an area of about 5,000 acres composed mainly of wetlands, said U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District Senior Project Manager Gary Walker on Monday. The lakes would be

constructed by flooding the areas with water from the Pearl River. Walker said that the project could have flood control benefits which is why the Corps became interested.

The project could also have enormous economic benefits for the private Jackson developers who originally came up with the idea.

Walker said the project was originally the idea of private developers and that typically, a side benefit of a project of this type could be waterfront development or recreational projects. The Corps' only interest is in the flood control aspects, Walker said. He could not name the developers.

The Corps is conducting a \$2.8 million feasibility study and draft environmental impact study in conjunction with the Rankin Hinds Pearl River Flood and

Drainage Control District. Walker said. The draft of the EIS should be available for public review by October of 2005, he said.

The entire study will encompass about two and a half years, and began last October, making for a possible finish date of February 2006, Walker said.

The study will take a look at possible downstream impacts to the project. Walker says that the project is not a storage measure and should not impact the amount of flow down the Pearl, but some don't agree, saying that the project will reduce the amount of fresh water flowing into the Mississippi Sound.

This could degrade shrimp populations and oyster beds and impact endangered Sturgeon habitats. Walker said that realistically he doesn't think the project will narrow the flow of

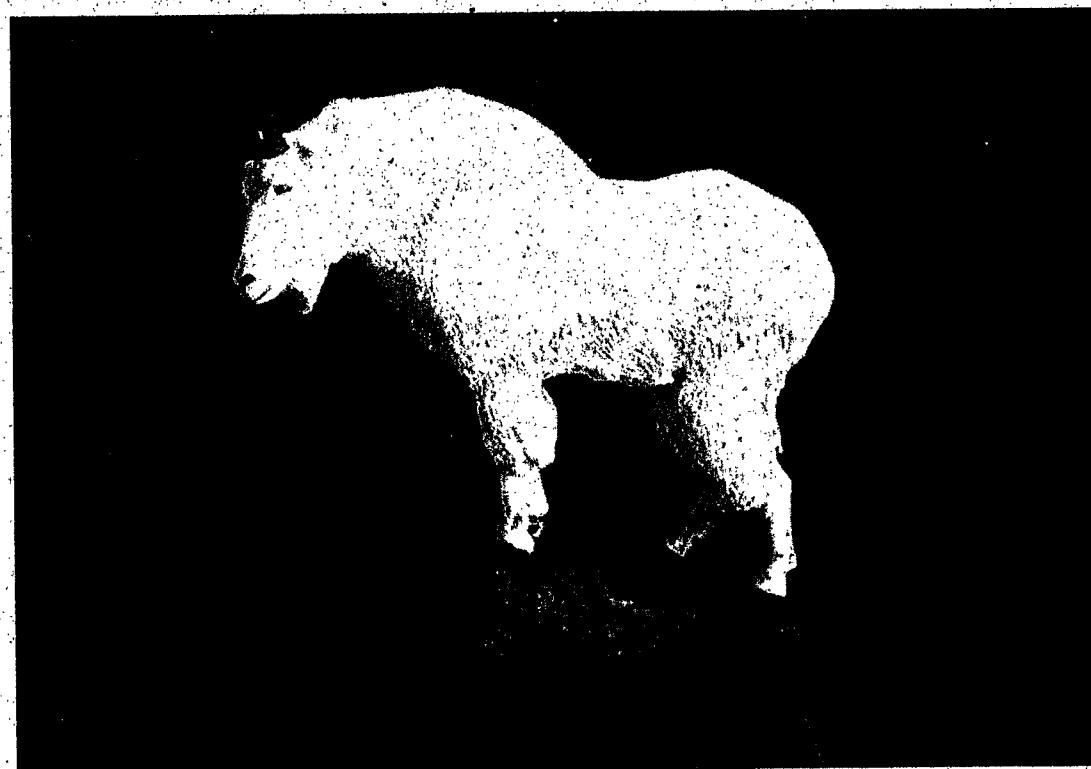
the Pearl River. The project could have negative impacts on the LeFleur State Park, he said.

Until last week, when Representative Gene Taylor's office requested a hearing on the coast, no public hearings had been scheduled for the coast area on the project.

Last week's hearing was held in Biloxi. At that time environmental policy advisor to Taylor requested that the public comment period be extended from March 24 to April 8. LaGarde asked the Corps to consider the coast with future public meetings.

Written comments should be sent to: District Engineer ASAED, Vicksburg, Attention Ms. Karen Dove-Jackson, 4155 Clay St., Vicksburg, MS 39183 or call Jackson at 601-631-7136 for more information.

WRANPS gets its goat



The Mississippi Wildlife Federation's Affiliate of the Year Award was recently presented to WRANPS. Below: Two baby opossums rescued by WRANPS volunteers.

Wildlife Rehab and Nature Preservation Society named MWF Affiliate of the Year

THE SEA COAST ECHO

Dianne Hunt, president and chairwoman of the board of the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Nature Preservation Society (WRANPS) in Pass Christian, recently accepted the organization's award as the Mississippi Wildlife Federation's Affiliate of the Year.

WRANPS started on the coast in 1983, to provide professional rehabilitation of injured and orphaned wildlife with the goal of returning them back to the wild. WRANPS soon realized that education must be at the forefront of their

efforts. With this in mind, WRANPS provides education programs using live wild animals for school children, civic clubs, scout troops, sheriff's camps and on television.

Last year 30,000 people were reached with these programs. WRANPS answers between 30 and 40 phone calls per day from

concerned citizens and takes in an average of 2,000 wild animals yearly. Their newsletter, The Call, gives species profiles and continues the message that we can all work to preserve the habitats surrounding our lives. During the coming year they will be creating a state of the art coastal wildlife interpretive center.

Special Mass at Bay St. Louis St. Joseph Chapel this Friday

On the feast of St. Joseph, Friday March 19th, a special Mass will be celebrated by Father Tom White at 6:00pm in the St. Joseph

Chapel located in the Bay St. Louis Cedar Point area on Dunbar Avenue.

The St. Joseph Chapel, which was recently closed

because of lack of priests, is being opened for this very special feast-day Mass honoring St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus.

St. Joseph's Altar in honor of Patsy Koerner

The Koerner family will sponsor a St. Joseph's Altar at noon Friday at 10066 Paradise Lane in Bay St. Louis, in honor of the late Patsy Koerner.

Donations needed for Garcia St. Joe's Altar

Donations are needed for a St. Joseph's Altar on Friday, including seafood, paper products and volunteers. For more information, call Jeanne at 467-8322.

St. Joseph's Altar at McCordle home

Kay McCordle will sponsor a St. Joseph's Altar at her home at 410 S. Central Ave. in Waveland on Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Blessing is at 11 a.m.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2004

Opinion

pg 4A

Cuevas' Quotes

by Ellis C. Cuevas

Publisher Emeritus

Champions!

Hail to the champs! Hancock High's Lady Hawks captured the Girl's 5-A basketball championship Saturday night in Jackson.

The high flying Lady Hawks dropped Murrah 60 to 46 in a game which Hancock took control of early and shut down a brief rally by Murrah in the fourth quarter.

Hancock's coach Pam Slayton needs to be very proud of her team, as this season they played as a team.

One of the very interesting aspects of the Lady Hawks too, is the fact that Superintendent Donald Kopf said on Monday. That is, team members are all A and B students, actually most of A students.

So academics are important to the young ladies too.

The past two years Murrah had eliminated Hancock, but, not in 2004, as Hancock is at the top of the pile.

Best of luck to all of the seniors at Hancock and I am sure the younger Lady Hawks will strive to be repeat champs.

One again, hail to the 2004 Hancock Lady Hawks, the 5-A State Basketball champs.

We need not to forget the Bay High Lady Tigers, who fell Friday in the state-finals 4-A basketball tournament.

Bay High had captured the 4-A title the past two years and need to be commented too on being a challenger for the title this year.

Like the Hancock game, I watched the Lady Tiger game on the television.

Educational Television channel.

It appeared to have been one of those nights when Bay High just could not get going against a tough Southeast Jones.

I am sure the Lady Tigers will be back again, as they really have a young team of which four of returning players were starters for the 2005 season.

You know something, between Bay High, Hancock High, St. Stanislaus and Our Lady Academy, Hancock County has a strong representation in collecting state champions in high school sports.

Hancock's four high schools in addition to academics, are also top in sporting activities.

Do not forget the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours from 5 to 7 p.m. this evening.

The big Block Party will take place in the second block of Main Street between Second and Toulme Streets.

There will be live entertainment, great foods and refreshments.

I hope to see you at the After Hours this evening.

The presence of law enforcement vehicles in Hancock County was very evident this week with the Bay St. Louis Police Department hosting the United States Police Canine Association 2004 National Detector Dog Trials.

Bay St. Louis needs to be commended as this is the first time for the big event to be hosted in Mississippi.

Barbour's Operation Streamline

Climbing out of Mississippi's \$700 million budget hole

FROM THE GOVERNOR

By Gov. Haley Barbour



When times were good Mississippi went on a spending spree. The Treasury bulged, and every interest group got the money it requested from the Legislature. Prioritizing in state government wasn't seen as necessary; there was no "living within our means."

When tax revenues slowed, the state began raiding special accounts and using one-time money to plug the hemorrhaging of red ink. That worked for a couple of years; but now the bill has come due and Mississippi finds itself in a \$700 million budget hole.

Mississippi did not get into this budget crisis overnight, and it will not be fixed overnight. After examining what I found upon arriving in office two months ago, I offered an honest, straightforward plan to eliminate our shortfall in two years. My plan, "Operation Streamline," is based on simple principles:

No New Taxes

Mississippi already has

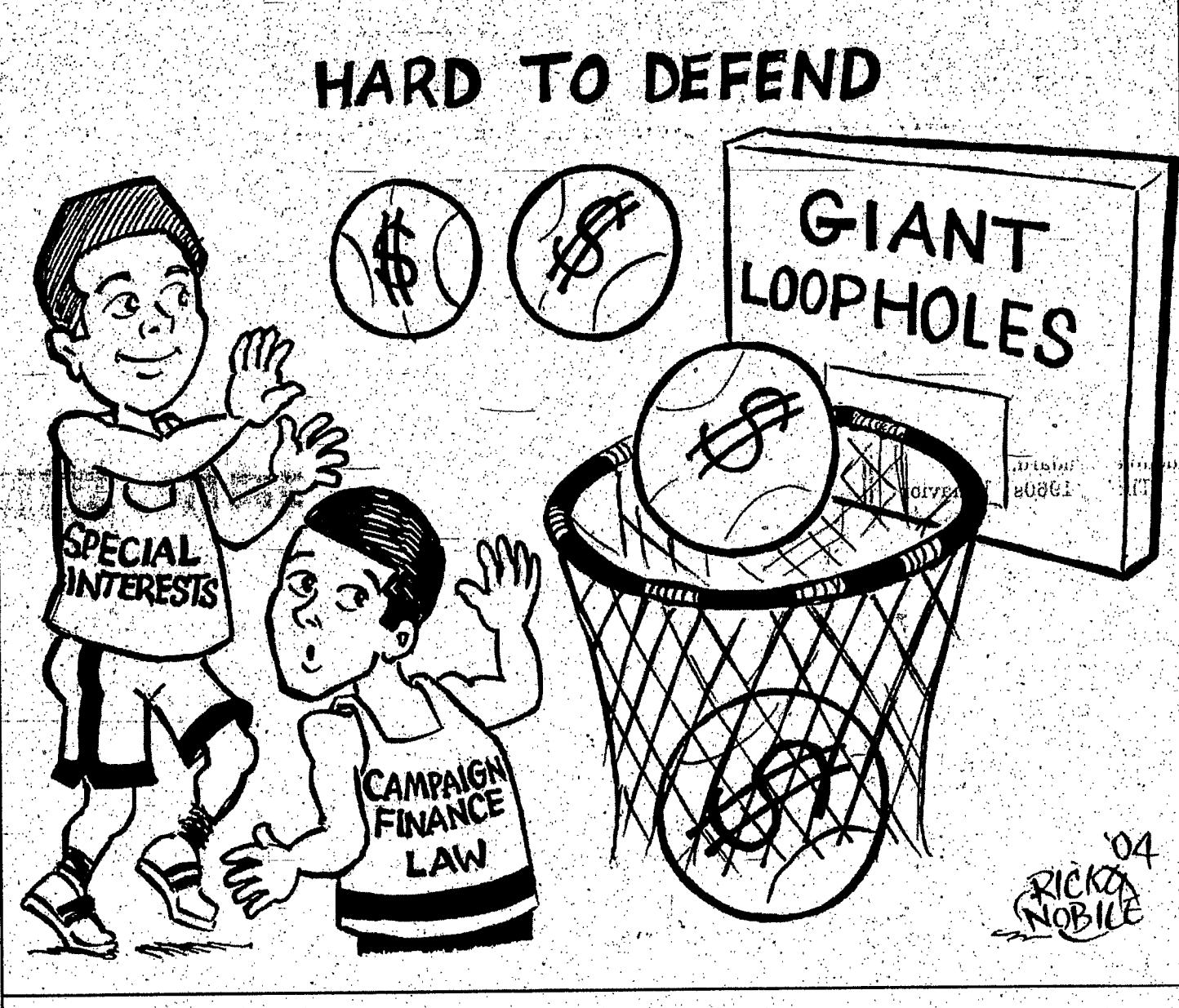
some of the highest taxes in the South, and raising those taxes (or "fees") even higher is not only bad for overtaxed Mississippians, it is an impediment to job creation. Besides, we're not in the worst financial shape in state history because we tax too little. It is because we spend too much. My budget

includes no new taxes, and I will veto any bill that raises state taxes. My definition of a "new tax" is anytime more taxpayers pay to the state government in exchange for no increase in state services.

Control Spending

Most Mississippians do

BARBOUR-5A

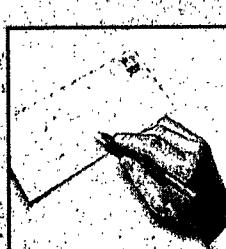


Ordinary citizens left out of political process

Letters to the Editor

Our letters policy

The Sea Coast Echo welcomes comments from its readers. Letters must be signed and include address or telephone number. Letters should be brief, preferably typewritten and double-spaced. Only one letter per writer per month. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject letters. Letters of thanks, expressions of appreciation and political endorsements are inappropriate.



Dear Editor:

This is like a chain letter.

Ms. Langen's response to Mr. Stewart's previous letter was full of historical inaccuracies that continued to bother me for 48 hours, so here goes:

FDR made his "day that

will live in infamy"

speech before Congress

Dec. 8, 1941, calling for a

declaration of war against Japan. Congress obliged.

He ran for, and

was reelected to a third term, November 1940,

before we were at war.

All military actions since World War II represent the Congress giving

its power to the

Executive Branch via

resolution to carry out

"police actions."

I agree that "ordinary citizens" through courage, sweat, blood and sacrifice make it possible for us to win wars which are declared by Congress, but some are fought anyway even though Congress doesn't declare war and the President doesn't have the power to declare war.

In November 1944, he

was reelected to a fourth term during the war and

campaigned on the plat-

form that we should keep

him as commander-in-

chief. The war in Europe

ended May 8, 1945,

shortly after he died.

LETTER-5A

Dear Editor:

My husband and I have

visited Bay St.

Louis/Waveland almost

every winter for the past

six years because our son

and his family are resi-

dents here. We have grown

to love this special, historic

place!

As we drove in to town

this year, we noticed that

the area appeared livelier

and much tidier than dur-

ing our previous visits.

We again walked the

beach path, one of our tra-

ditional pleasures here,

and found it nearly free of trash. In the past, our walks had always included bringing bags and filling them with trash each day as we walked.

And your bike and hike

trail along the beach is a

delight. We think it is get-

ting quite a bit of use, and

that it adds considerably to

the pleasure of visiting this

area.

Congratulations on the

pleasant improvements

your cities are creating!

Sincerely,

Alison Puffer

The Sea Coast Echo

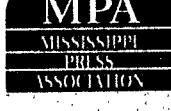
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James R. (Randy) Ponder, Editor and Publisher
Geoff Belcher, News Editor
Rita Breun, Circulation Manager
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Barbour: Operation Streamline

not realize that the Governor controls only a small part of the Executive Branch.

I have authority to appoint leaders at just 10 departments and agencies, but no authority to reorganize them.

To save money and to increase efficiency, I have asked the Legislature for the authority for one year to streamline the agencies that report to me.

This would allow Executive Directors to efficiently respond to changes in service demands, technology, and budget constraints by "smart-sizing" state government at a lower cost to the taxpayer. There is so much duplication in state government that just a minor consolidation of services would save millions.

One cost-saving plan would actually be a benefit to state employees. I want to give state employees more health insurance options, including a no-premium option, to enable them to choose the health coverage which works best for them while decreasing the overall burden of health insurance costs on our taxpayers.

All state workers get the same one size fits all health insurance coverage. Giving additional options to state employees and teachers whose different ages, incomes and situations call for different types of insur-

Mississippians have to make responsible choices in the budget around the time state government has to do that, too.

Gov. Haley Barbour

ance coverage is the right thing to do. If we do not reform the health plan, the program will go broke by the fall.

No "Funny Money Accounting"

Mississippi has a spending problem, and the first step in solving a problem is admitting you have it. I want to confront this problem with honest budgeting. Some have advocated simply raising the revenue estimate — or the prediction of how much money the state expects to take in — to fix our budget problems. But this is like buying a car you can't afford because you just

F u n d

Continued from Page 4A

Teachers/Education

My budget eliminates the proposed additional cuts to Universities and Community Colleges — which have been slashed over one hundred million dollars in recent years while their student population has increased.

This proposal was the largest spending increase in my budget. As for kindergarten through 12th grade, I accepted the funding level unanimously recommended by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee.

It specifically included money for next year's teacher pay raise, as did my budget. I believe funding for education must continue to be the top funding priority of state government.

That is why I am committed to working with the Legislature to find more money for K-12 education.

Call Your Legislator at 601-359-3770

Mississippians have to make responsible choices when they budget around their kitchen tables. It's time state government learned to do that, too.

I hope you'll support me on no new taxes, on controlling spending, on using honest budgeting and on setting priorities like education. If we do these things, Mississippi will do better for years to come.



"Common Digestive Complaints"

March 25, Noon

Learn more about diagnosis and treatment of diverticulitis, diverticulosis, polyps & screening tests.

Presented by
Brian Anthony, M.D., general surgeon
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"Stay Fit"

Hancock Medical Center's nationally accredited Cardiac Rehab Program offers medically supervised classes to help restore your health. For more information, call (228) 467-8445.



Registration required for all seminars:
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Letter

Continued from Page 4A

of all previous presidents who have run for reelection. I also agree that what Mr. Bush did or did not do militarily during the Vietnam conflict, or what Mr. Kerry did or did not do at that time should not present a double standard.

Their 1960s behavior during a war that would have been avoided if Chicago had not determined that the Democratic electors for the state of Illinois would select JFK rather than Republican electors picking Mr. Nixon in a race decided much like that of 2000.

Mr. Bush's prior drinking habits should not be an issue. His claiming to be a "born-again" Christian should not be an issue. What he has said and actions he has taken as president should provide adequate bases for the voters to decide in November.

It is likely that the voters will vote against a candidate rather than for one. That is sad, but negativity in long campaigns builds as the months pass between now and November.

It certainly would be nice if the two major parties provided candidates to vote for. Maybe rank and file party members would have a voice in primaries as they were supposed to if all were held on the first Monday after the first Tuesday in May, six months before the general election in November, instead of allowing nonrepresentative states, voting before the snow melts, tell the rest of us who we should support.

We might as well return to those "smoke filled rooms of yesteryear" and allow the party bosses to select a candidate!

Dr. Philip A. Ramseyer
Diamondhead

REPRESENTATIVE JESSICA UPSHAW IS FIGHTING TO HELP ALL MISSISSIPPIANS!



Mississippians for Economic Progress (MEEP) applauds Representative Upshaw!!

This courageous Legislator stood up and told the personal injury attorneys that she was serious about ending "Jackpot Justice". Representative Upshaw supports HB 1579 (civil justice reform legislation).

We applaud Representative Upshaw for her courageous fight. She needs to know her brave actions are fully appreciated by her local constituents. Please take a moment out of your day to say THANK YOU to this legislator.

*You can contact her at the Capitol at 601-359-3770 (ask to be transferred to the House Desk on the third floor to relay the message).

*You can fax Representative Upshaw at 601-359-3728.

*You can email your Legislator at jupshaw@mail.house.state.ms.us.

Ending lawsuit abuse is paramount to creating a business climate in our state where job creation can flourish. Everyone pays for lawsuit abuse—EVEN YOU. In 2002, lawsuit costs ("lawsuit abuse tax") equaled \$809 per person or \$3,236 per family of four. Medical Malpractice costs equaled to \$85 per person or \$340 per family of four. At this rate of increase, tort costs could approach \$1,003 per person by 2005. If we allow lawsuit abuse to continue, we will

*scare away jobs and new businesses

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*force doctors out-of-state or into retirement

*allow more outrageous verdicts which only benefit greedy personal injury attorneys.

Let Representative Upshaw know what a great job she is doing!

Sincerely,

Lex Taylor
Chairman of the Board
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Supers eye higher building permit fees

BY BENNIE
SHALLBETTER
Staff Writer

Building official Mickey Lagasse asked Supervisors to consider raising some fees for permits Wednesday. Lagasse asked that the fee for permits for mining operations in the Buffer Zone be raised \$500 for operations involving 5 acres or less and to \$1,000 for operations involving more than five acres. Supervisors voted three to two to raise fees with District 5 Supervisor Jay Cuevas and District 1 Supervisor David Yarborough voting against the raises. The two said people who owned property in the Buffer Zone had already lost enough money paying

taxes on land that had limited use.

Supervisors also plan a workshop to discuss other fees at the permit office. Most county fees for building permits were set in 1977, when flood control regulations came in to the county, said Lagasse. People owning property above I-10 and out of the flood zone typically pay about \$40 for a building permit for residential buildings. People living below I-10 typically pay a per square foot fee for the same structures.

This means that a person building a 3,000 square foot house in the north county would pay \$40 for a permit and a person in the south county could pay \$300 to

\$350 for a permit. Lagasse said the flood zone permits require one additional inspection and the need to look for additional safety measures, such as making sure that no bathrooms, bedrooms or electrical outlets are installed below the flood plain levels. Supervisors will look at regulating the fee structure in a workshop with the Planning and Zoning Board after their meeting scheduled for April 15.

Planning and Zoning meetings will now begin at 4:15 p.m. rather than 4 p.m.

In other business:

• Chris LaGarde, representative for U.S. Representative Gene Taylor said that a three acre plot of

land located on the Rocky Hill Dedeaux Rd. and titled to the Federal government has gone through a process to release it for donation. Supervisors will request that the property be titled to the Hancock County Board of Supervisors. Currently a 911 tower and a water tower belonging to the Kiln District are on the property.

• Comptroller Patty Greer Hammons turned in her resignation effective April 2. Hammons has been with the county for 11 years. She is leaving to take a job as comptroller for Jackson County.

Planning and Zoning meetings will now begin at 4:15 p.m. rather than 4 p.m.

In other business:

• Chris LaGarde, representative for U.S. Representative Gene Taylor said that a three acre plot of

study in 2005 in time for a 2006 construction funding bill. The study was originally slated to be finished in 2006, but would put the county behind for beginning construction on the 2006 bill. The next construction bill would not come up until 2008. The request would not result in any expense to the county.

• Johnny Grandison, a representative from the Mobile District U.S. Corps of Engineers, asked Supervisors to request \$458,000 in federal funding to finish a study on a seawall project being conducted by the Corps for the county. The funding would allow the Corps to complete the

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Schools to name football field for Brett Favre

BY SHANNON JENKINS
Staff Writer

Two special meetings of the Hancock County School Board covered a student uniform workshop and a football star earlier this week.

On Monday, the board met at 1 p.m. with school administrators to discuss the new student dress code for the 2004-2005 school year.

Board members addressed questions about some policy descriptions and encouraged faculty

members to offer suggestions on making the policy run smoothly once implemented.

At Tuesday morning's meeting, board members approved the recommendation to name the high school football field in honor of Brett Favre, a Kiln native and Green Bay Packers quarterback.

School district officials said the approval is pending the recommendation of an official name and resolution, which is scheduled for the April 1 school board

meeting.

The board voted 3-1 with Larry Peterson voting against naming the field. Cheryl Bennett was absent due to work.

The naming of the field was brought to the board during the March 4 regular meeting.

Beth Seymour, an organizer of the First Annual Brett Favre Spring Jamboree, proposed the idea to the board in hopes of having the field named in Favre's honor in time for the May 7-8 event.

On May 7, an invitation-only "patron" reception will be held at Casino Magic Bay St. Louis, allowing Favre and guests to socialize and celebrate the quarterback's accomplishments.

A football jamboree featuring the Hancock Hawks and other area high schools is scheduled for Saturday, March 8.

For more information about this event, contact Rocky Gaudin at 228-467-2972 or Beth Seymour at 228-467-0244 or 228-255-8086.

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'Paws in the Pass' or 'A walk in the bark!'

Mark your calendar now for "Paws on Parade," pet parade and festival, sponsored by the Friends of the Animal Shelter in Hancock County.

This year's event takes place on Saturday, March 20. The parade starts at 11 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Park at Beach Blvd. and Coleman Ave. in Waveland. The event will include a Blessing of the Animals, followed by the parade at the soccer field;

contests; prizes & games; pet photographs; agility

parade.

demonstrations; breed res-

cue; and much, much more.

Entry fee is \$7 for the first animal, and \$5 for each additional one, when you pre-register at Bookends Book Store, the Purple Snapper, Pet Haven Veterinary Clinic, all in Bay St. Louis; or at That Cute Little Shop in Waveland, or by mail. Pre-registration will end Wednesday, March 17. Entry for registration the day of the parade is \$10, and will be held from 9:30-10:45 a.m. before the parade.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.

Pre-registration is \$15 for the first dog. At the door, the cost is \$20 for the first dog, \$10 for the second dog, and \$5 for third dog and over.

The Doggie Parade

begins at 9:45 a.m. The famous Lilly the paralyzed English Bulldog who has been such an inspiration will be the "Grand Marshal."

After the parade, there will be music, games, contests, food, and fun for everyone.

All proceeds to benefit the Humane Society of South Mississippi. For more information, contact Cynthia Tanner at 863-4394.

Leetown Athletic Assoc. sign-ups

The Leetown Athletic Association will host baseball registration this Saturday, March 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day, at Leetown Field. For more

information, call Lynn at 601-798-1305.

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Krewe of Peter Claver Lenten catfish dinners

The Knights & Ladies of Peter Claver will sponsor fried catfish dinners on Friday, March 19 and 26 and April 2, under the St. Rose Church Pavilion. Plates will be available for lunch and dinner for a \$5 donation. Dine in or carry out. For delivery, call 669-4400 or 467-1651.

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Pasc

Tracks -- Bay to fight closure

with reasons, the crossings should stay open at Citizen, Sycamore and Touline streets. At the same time, there was much speculation about the motive behind the push by CSX and Mississippi Department of Transportation officials who want to close the crossings. That speculation included a presumed CSX desire to park long trains on the tracks, move at higher speeds through town, and lower its insurance rates.

One man predicted "chaos" in traffic would result. The mayor and every member of city Council couldn't have agreed more, and urged the citizens to write and telephone MDOT Commissioner Wayne Brown. He's a key elected official, Mayor Eddie Favre stressed several times during the meeting.

Council members agreed to leave copies of the pertinent mailing addressed and phone numbers at the front desk at City Hall Annex on Court Street.

Bay St. Louis' three crossings in peril are among 30 on the Mississippi coast targeted by MDOT and CSX. In a meeting last month with city administrators, CSX was "very adamant" that their plan would prevail, city officials say.

It's not the first time that track crossings have been targeted by CSX in Bay St. Louis. About 10 years ago, the rail company tried to force the city to close five crossings, during negotiations for city purchase of the old CSX Depot. That attempt sputtered to a halt, however, when citizens turned out in a massive protest and MDOT backed down.

In more recent times, CSX has used its clout to push for closings by threatening to withhold right-of-

way for the city's drainage improvement program and the bike path.

Bay St. Louis has 10 track crossings, but only three of them have full crossing warnings, with lights, bells and crossbars. These include Beach Boulevard and Bookter Street. Only a few weeks ago, CSX put up the full protections at Webb Street, which was the site of a multiple fatality several years ago.

Two crossings, at Sycamore and Second streets, have only warning lights.

Five others have no warnings aside from stop signs.

As a lure to agree to the current proposal, CSX says it will upgrade the warnings at St. Charles, Ballentine, and Washington streets, at a cost of \$100,000 to \$120,000 each. In addition, the rail company says it may help with costs of building a new road parallel to the tracks to help connect to the city's streets.

None of that, however, tempted the citizens or officials Tuesday. CSX should upgrade all the crossings' warnings anyway, said Mayor Eddie Favre. And putting a parallel road along the tracks would place it virtually in residents' bedroom windows, the mayor warned.

Favre said he and Third Ward council member Tom Farve have met with state Rep. J.P. Compretta and Sen. Scottie Cuevas, finding both of them firmly opposed to the crossing closure proposal.

But he repeatedly urged citizens to contact those officials with letters, phone calls and petitions — and to make sure the city gets a copy of any written protests.

MDOT will have the final say, because under state law

that agency may close any crossing it wishes, after a public hearing. It also has the power to order warning signals at train crossings.

Favre said the city police and fire department officials are documenting all the potential problems of having to do without the three crossings now at issue. He said in one scenario fire trucks would be forced to back up to exit a dead-end street. A Head Start bus driver said she

would have to back up to collect her pre-schoolers along Citizen and Sycamore streets, because she wouldn't be able to turn around if the rail crossings were closed.

While area citizens have been gathering petitions for the fight, meanwhile, CSX has been re-doing rail beds — and some crossing approaches — around town.

But that work has left the Ballentine Street crossing so narrow, it's unlikely that two cars could be on it at the same time, said at-large council member Bill Taylor.

Sycamore Street residents, meanwhile, said the three churches on that street generate traffic for religious services, marriages and funerals. "It just can't happen," said Ruth Davis of the closing proposal.

Some questioned the motives behind the closing proposal, suggesting that CSX really wants to have long stretches of open track so it can park more trains without having to worry about blocking intersections.

As it is, parked trains block St. Charles Street regularly, motorists said.

Connie Payne Lampley, former Third Ward council member, presented council with a stack of petition signatures and said she's only

Continued from Page 1A

began to gather them from area residents in the area that would be impacted.

And the mayor suggested it's a citywide concern too, and calling for a citywide response.

Closing the tracks at Touline, the mayor and council noted, would bring havoc for school-related traffic. St. Stanislaus, Bay Catholic and Second Street Elementary schools all generate traffic over the tracks at that location, officials noted.

Favre said the city will be armed with its documentation for the upcoming public hearing, along with a map that will show all of the crossings and their proximity to schools, churches, businesses, and emergency workers.

He encouraged residents, meanwhile, to keep gathering petitions and contacting Brown and the legislative delegation. "The more the merrier," Favre advised.

Tuesday's turnout was largely generated by Lampley and Sycamore Street resident Sandra Price, both of whom say they're working with residents of the entire area to oppose the closings.

No representatives from CSX or MDOT were present, but they had previously taken their case to a meeting of city officials. Second Ward council member Jim Thriflley III characterized that meeting as a "typical bureaucratic" session, with seven or eight transportation engineers on hand. "I said, 'Y'all have got your work cut out for you if you're going to try to do this,'" Thriflley said.

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NASA -- shared services

Continued from Page 1A

The facility promises to bring about 470 new jobs sporting salaries which will average in the \$60,000 range, say Stennis officials. On hand to hear the Stennis proposal was NASA director Sean O'Keefe and a host of other NASA officials including new director Tom Donaldson.

The center will combine services currently offered at each of ten facilities into one central facility. The services include human resources, information technology services, procurement, and financial services. Combining these services will cut costs for NASA and taxpayers, said O'Keefe.

Six of the ten NASA centers have submitted proposals including Kennedy Space Center in Florida, Glen Research Center in Ohio, Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama, Johnson Space Flight Center in Houston, and Langley in Virginia. Officials will have visited all the centers by the end of this week and

believed that Stennis should be aggressive and competitive in vying for the facility.

Barbour said he was delighted that Louisiana would contribute to the venture. Barbour also touted the unique quality of life that would be afforded to employees working at the resource center. They will have the opportunity to live in the city of New Orleans if they choose, along the Gulf Coast or in one of the many rural areas surrounding the Stennis area, he said, offering a wide choice of lifestyles and easy access to the facility.

Low labor costs in the area, the advantage of lowering life cycle costs for security, fire protection etc. among 30 shared tenant agencies, the energy efficient design of the proposed facility, frequent upgrades to the information technology infrastructure, and an uninterrupted power system are other advantages touted by the Stennis facility.

Bust -- oxycontin

Continued from Page 1A

"We secured a search warrant for Chester's residence, as we had it under surveillance for several months and secured enough evidence for a warrant to be issued," Karl said.

Chris Russell, lead agent in the arrest said, "We seized over 30 pills which we believe are Oxycontin. The search warrant was signed by Justice Court Judge Jay Lagasse."

"You know, we had several complaints about possible drug activities at Chester's residence. This information was very important to have been received by the Narcotics Division," Karl emphasized.

Karl continued, "The Hancock County Narcotics Division checks out all complaints received. Sometimes things can come together in

a few days and other times it may take months. Yet, we urge all residents to report to us any and all possible drug activities in their neighborhoods, for sure they will be checked by our agents."

In addition to Karl and Russell, Agent Clifton (Bubba) Malley and Agent Johnny Alison, were assisted by Investigators John

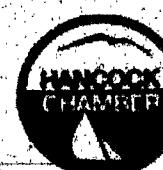
Luther and Deron Cuevas, Deputy Lt. Ron Borja and Deputy Sgt. Push Phillips in making the arrest.

On Friday morning, Russell said, "The case is still be further investigated."

Karl said anyone with information on possible drug activities in their area may call 228-467-1496, 228-467-5101, or 601-798-8555.

Chamber 'After Hours'

The Hancock County Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours block party in Old Town Bay St. Louis is set for today from 5-7 p.m. on Main Street between Second and Touline. The event is sponsored by Charbonnet & Charbonnet, Clay Creations, Pest Control Specialists, Southern Title, The Checkered Cupboard, The Kid Company and The Sycamore House. Music provided by Class Distinction. There will be food and drinks at each merchant location.



Information

Code Quality

BUSINESS NEWS

Kennedy to manage new Waveland Peoples Bank

Basil Kennedy, a 27-year banking veteran in Hancock County, has been named vice president and manager of The Peoples Bank branch in Waveland, announced Chevis C. Swetman, chairman and CEO of the bank.

The new Peoples Bank branch, scheduled to open in October, will be located at 478 U.S. Highway 90 just west of Highway 603 and in front of the new Super Walmart. The 2,350-square-foot building will include two drive-up teller lanes, a 24-hour drive-up ATM and an after-hours depository. In addition, the branch will offer customers approximately 140 safe deposit boxes.

"We could not have found a better person to manage our new Waveland branch when it opens," said Swetman. "Basil Kennedy is widely recognized as one of the leading bankers in Hancock County. **BASIL KENNEDY** and we're delighted to have him on the Peoples Bank team," added Swetman.

"In a very real way, opening this branch in Waveland is like a homecoming for me," said Kennedy. "In 1977 I returned to the Gulf Coast to work for Gulf National Bank, which later merged with The Peoples Bank. I'm proud and excited to be joining the great team at The Peoples Bank again," he added.

Kennedy's most recent position was Community Bank president of Union Planters Bank in Bay St. Louis, a position he held since 1995. Before then, he was president of Financial Services Corporation of Bay St. Louis and earlier served as vice president of commercial lending for the former Deposit Guaranty Bank in Gulfport. He began his

career in banking at Hibernia National Bank in New Orleans as a commercial lending officer.

He earned a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of New Orleans and a Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Mississippi. He also graduated from the School of Banking of the South.

He currently is a board member and former president of Goodwill Industries of South Mississippi, the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce and Christmas in April. In addition, he has previously served on the boards of the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, the Greater Biloxi Economic Development Foundation, the American Cancer Society, Hancock County, Bay St. Louis Development Foundation and the Mississippi Coast Economic Council.

Kennedy is also active in sailing on the Gulf Coast. He is a former commodore of the Gulf Yachting Association, the Mississippi Coast Yachting Association and Bay Waveland Yacht Club.

Founded in 1896, The Peoples Bank totaled \$575 million in assets as of December 31, 2003, and currently operates 15 full service branches and 49 ATMs along the Mississippi Gulf Coast in Hancock, Harrison, Jackson and Stone counties. The Peoples Bank is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Peoples Financial Corporation, listed on the NASDAQ Small Cap Market under the symbol PFBX. Additional information is available on the Internet at www.thepeoples.com.

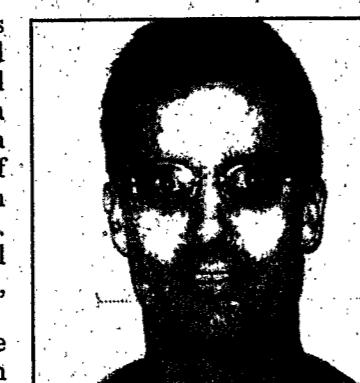
Cellular South extends local calling area, names Reynolds area manager

Cellular South has announced that Richard Reynolds has been named Area Manager for South Mississippi. This area includes the markets of Gulfport, Biloxi, Ocean Springs, Pascagoula, Bay St. Louis, Hattiesburg, Laurel and Picayune, Natchez, Brookhaven and McComb.

A graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, Reynolds has served as Market Manager for the Biloxi and Gulfport markets since May 2003 and has served as Market Manager of Gulfport since 1999.

A Gulfport resident, Reynolds serves on the Board and Education Committee of the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the Gulf Coast, Gulfport and Orange Grove/Lyman Chambers of Commerce, Orange Grove/Lyman Rotary Club and Trinity United Methodist Church in Gulfport. Reynolds also coaches for Bayou View T-Ball League and Harrison County Soccer Club.

Cellular South, one of the nation's largest privately held wireless companies, has announced the completion of a \$38 million expansion and upgrade of its third generation (3G) wireless network, which also includes more than 100 new cell sites throughout the company's wireless net-



RICHARD REYNOLDS

work.

This expansion extends its CDMA 1X local calling area from Memphis to Destin/Seaside, Fla. Cellular South has now invested approximately \$260 million on its network over the last five years to increase coverage and upgrade to the latest wireless technology.

Cellular South's network features advanced Code-Division Multiple Access (CDMA) 1XRTT (CDMA 1X) technology. CDMA 1X is a third-generation (3G) digital wireless technology that significantly increases capacity for voice and data traffic, allowing the company to offer its Unlimited Anytime Calling plan that includes unlimited anytime minutes for a flat rate.

Cellular South, one of the nation's largest privately held wireless companies, has announced the completion of a \$38 million expansion and upgrade of its third generation (3G) wireless network, which also includes more than 100 new cell sites throughout the company's wireless net-



Grand opening

Full Moon Clock Works, 301 Railroad Avenue at Touline, Bay St. Louis recently celebrated their grand opening with a ribbon cutting. In attendance were Tish Williams, Frances Graves, Paul Downs, owner Theresa Downs, Eve Downs, Missy McDonald and others. The new business repairs and sells clocks and is open Tuesday through Friday, noon-5 p.m. (Echo photo by Cecilia Howe)

Houses passes bill for Stennis funding

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)-A bill that allows the state to borrow \$19.5 million for the construction of a 125,000-square-foot facility at Stennis Space Center is an investment that could lead to a large NASA project in Mississippi, lawmakers say.

The House passed the proposal on Friday.

It is expected to help Stennis Space Center in Hancock County compete for the NASA Shared Services Center, which would consolidate the agency's human resources, purchasing and other nationwide operations.

The House action is just days before NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe is scheduled to visit Stennis Space Center to learn more about a Stennis proposal to house Shared Services in Mississippi.

The bill, authored by Rep. Dirk Dedeaux, D-Sellers, passed by a 120-1 vote. A similar proposal has also passed the Senate.

"This project is significant in that it will elevate Stennis in the long term as a nucleus for more proliferation in aeronautics and space," Dedeaux said. "By being able to present Sean O'Keefe with bills passed by both the House and Senate, we should be able to prove to him beyond any doubt that the state of Mississippi is willing to come to the table and do whatever's necessary to bring this project to Mississippi."

"We feel that Stennis has an excellent project they are organizing," said Rep. Bobby Howell, R-Kilmichael. "We believe that Mississippi is in the top three in the running for this selection."

The bill would authorize bonds to pay for the 125,000-square-foot building at Stennis to house Shared Services.

This would require local governments to come up with at least \$2.5 million for the construction.

Howell said the state is also continuing to negotiate with St. Tammany Parish, La., to have local government there chip in on the project.

The Shared Services Center plan is part of President Bush's challenge to NASA and other agencies to cut spending as they increase their missions.

It would combine NASA's information technology,

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Entertainment

Center Stage presents 'Picnic'

Romantic drama begins tonight at 8 in Biloxi with opening reception at 7

Center Stage will present "Picnic," a steamy romantic drama by William Inge, March 18-28.

All performances are at 8 p.m. except Sundays, which open at 3 p.m. There are no shows on Mondays.

"Picnic" centers around Madge, a small-town beauty queen who wants to be more than a pretty ornament.

Alan is her "nice boy" fiancé who offers security and a country club membership. Hal is a handsome drifter who offers little more than animal magnetism. Will Madge make the right choice?

Winner of both the Pulitzer Prize and the Drama Critics Circle Award, this Broadway hit became a popular movie.

"Picnic"
March 18-28 (Dark on Mondays)
Center Stage
Tickets \$11-\$15
228-388-6258

starring William Holden and Kim Novak.
Cast members include Jacqueline Coale, Jesse DiGiocomo, Claire Dugger, Amanda Freeman, Gloria Gaines, Glenda O'Neal, Sharon Perez, Shari Prestemon, Bobby Ragon Jr., James Stephenson and Scott Stevenson.
Chuck White will direct.

with Werner du Plessis on set design, Sharon Bush on lighting design and Ginny Russum on costume design.
Free hors d'oeuvres from Naomi's Catering will be available during the opening night reception at 7 p.m. on March 18.

Call 388-6258 for reservations. Tickets range in price from \$11 to \$15.



Pictured from left are performers Amanda Freeman, Bobby Ragon Jr. and Glenda O'Neal.

Bay St. Louis Little Theatre News

GREATIVE GUILD:

The Creative Guild has been busy reviewing scripts to plan the Bay St. Louis Little Theatre's upcoming seasons.

If you are interested in being a part of the Creative Guild contact Stephanie Coker at 586-5574 or Glenda Schornick at 467-5326.

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

• "Fuddy Meers" - May 14, 15, 21, 22 at 8 p.m. and May 16 and 23 at 2 p.m. A rollicking comedy about a woman who wakes up every morning a complete amnesiac.

• Relay For Life - The theater will be participating in the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life on May 27.

Volunteers are needed to walk during this very fun, night-time event. If you are interested, contact Sandy Reese at 466-2728.

• Summer Children's Theatre Program - The theater has partnered with the Boys and Girls Club to present the summer program at Second Street Elementary. More information about this program will be available in the future.

OTHER NEWS:
The Fund Raising Committee recently announced the completion of the grant application for the Mississippi Arts Association.

Special thanks to Claire Haun, Sandy Reese, Elaine Harter and other volunteers for their

work and dedication to this very important project.

Special thanks also to John Chaszar of Casino Magic who generously offered to contribute supplies and manpower for a much-needed repair of our backstage area.

The Bay St. Louis Little Theatre has announced the Chairish Our Theatre Campaign.

Contributions of \$150 are being taken to have a plaque with your message permanently attached to one of the new seats! Get yours now before they are gone.

Contact Claire Haun at 463-9793 or Sandy Reese at 466-2728.

Special thanks to Glen Vanderbeek and a group

of dedicated volunteers who completed installation of the new seats. These 8 rows of seats are larger and more comfortable and will be perfect for displaying plaques sold during the Chairish Our Theatre Campaign.

MEMBERSHIP:

Please consider becoming a member of your wonderful Little Theatre.

\$100-Angel: receives 2 season tickets
\$50-Patron: receives 1 season ticket

\$30-Friend: receives 2 play tickets

\$15-Individual: receives 1 play ticket.

Mail checks to PO Box 2103 Bay St. Louis, MS 39521 - please include your address, telephone number and email.

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2nd \$25 Kash!

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BSLLT auditions set March 18 & 20

The Bay St. Louis Little Theatre will hold auditions for its season finale, "Fuddy Meers."

Auditions will be held at the John F. Holmes Playhouse at 301 Boardman Ave. in Bay St. Louis on Thursday, March 18, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 20, at 10:30 a.m.

Director Glen Vanderbeek and assistant to the director Libba Tallant will seek actors in roles for three women and four men.

"Fuddy Meers," written by David Lindsay-Abaire, is a zany new comedy populated by a curio-cabinet of bizarre outrageous charac-

ters. Consider Claire, the central figure — a woman with amnesia who wakes up every morning a blank slate.

Her chipper husband and rebellious teenage son seem sane when compared to a limping, lisping, half-blind, half-deaf man in a ski mask, or Claire's mother, a stroke victim, or the dimwitted thug with a foul-mouthed hand puppet or a claustrophobic lady cop.

This hilarious and engaging comedy will be produced in mid-May.

For details, or to check out a play script prior to auditions, contact Glen Vanderbeek at 228-467-2089.

Walter Anderson Players to present 'Murder, Medium-Rare'

The Walter Anderson Players, Jackson County's Community Theatre will present its first production of the 2004 season — "Murder, Medium-Rare" by Eileen Moushey.

Directed by Tom Van Devender, "Murder, Medium-Rare" is a delicious audience-participation murder mystery. Assistant director for the show is Dawnie Hard.

Cast members include Robert Brown, Julie Franc, Maribel Myers, A.J. Shaw, Christy Tolar, Tom Van

Devender, Beth Walter and Rick Walter.

"Murder, Medium-Rare" is presented by permission from Mysteries by Moushey Inc. and will be performed March 26 and 27 at 8 p.m. and March 28 at 2 p.m. at the Ocean Springs Civic Center on Highway 90 in Ocean Springs.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students with ID and can be purchased at the door.

Reservations may be made by calling 228-875-3207 or 228-475-4568.

"Fuddy Meers" Auditions

March 18 at 7:30 p.m.
March 20 at 10:30 a.m.

Productions dates are set for mid-May

Bay St. Louis Little Theatre
301 Boardman Ave.

Call Glen Vanderbeek at 228-467-2089

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This project partially funded by the MS Department of Tourism

Fibromyalgia Support Group to meet spouses, family members

THE SEA COAST ECHO

The Hancock County Fibromyalgia Support Group invites people with fibromyalgia to bring their spouses and other family members with them to the March 29 meeting at 7 p.m. in the Seal Room at the Bay St. Louis Library.

Guest speaker Jim Soriano of Pass Christian will talk about how the disorder affects not only the people who suffer from it but family members who

most often change their lifestyles to accommodate the pain, fatigue and disability that fibromyalgia causes.

He will discuss the stress and burnout that family members encounter and give tips on how to deal with that. He also will suggest ways that family members can support fibromyalgia sufferers in coping with daily activities.

"I believe in a team management approach," he said.

Soriano has a master's degree in counseling and is a licensed professional counselor. He formerly worked for NuCare in New Orleans working with people suffering from such diseases as cancer and chronic fatigue.

He now works in Biloxi for Tricare, dealing with mental health problems in the military community such as stress management, disease management, parenting and marriage.

TOPS 307 meets in Waveland

Take Off Pounds Sensible (TOPS) MS #307, Waveland, met Wednesday, March 10, 2004, at Triumphant Christian Church. 10 members were present. Mabel was the weekly best TOPS loser with a loss of 5-1/2 lbs.

Paula was the top KOPS Mabel received the incentive award. New Officers were voted on and, in April, will be sworn in.

The Chapter meets every Wednesday mornings at the Triumphant Church located at 1807 Waveland Ave.,

Waveland, MS. Weigh-ins are from 9:00-9:30 with the meeting to follow. Anyone interested in losing weight is welcome to visit the chapter. For more information call Sherri at 467-3798.

Grant money spent to support fire police and public works

THE SEA COAST ECHO

The Department of Homeland Security issued a \$35,692 grant to the City of Bay Saint Louis to be used for equipment that increases safety communications and response. The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency administers grant for the Department of Homeland Security.

The first responder preparedness equipment purchased for use by the fire department include Level C protection kits that include mask and suit. Additional self-contained breathing apparatus bottles that will last up to one hour, cooling vests for fighting fire in intensive heat caused by weather and fire, and an 18' emergency equipment trailer that will be staffed and towed by the Fire Department.

Additional portable radio equipment purchased for the fire department for installation in its mobile communication van. Other shared equipment purchased included portable scene lights and generator.

"The purpose of this grant is to supplement existing equipment supplies following training received by local firefighters and supervisory personnel by the Office of Domestic Preparedness weapons of mass destruction/hazardous materials technician and weapons of mass destruction/incident command schools.

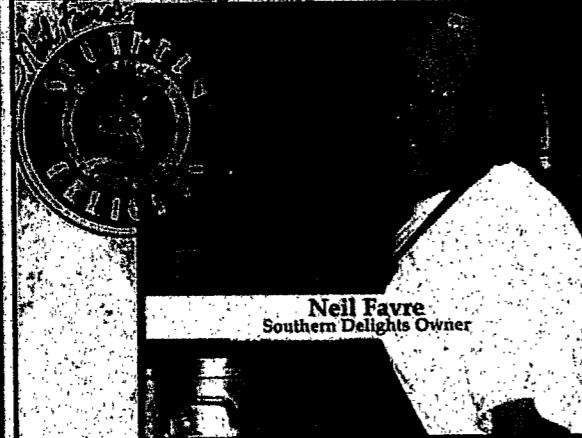
Public Works Department equipment was with a radio repeater unit, which is not suitable for being portable for use in the city of Bay Saint Louis," said Fire Chief Robert Gavagnie, who also serves as the Homeland Security Coordinator for Bay Saint Louis. Chief Gavagnie authored the grant and serves as the local administrator.

Lakeshore Youth Athletic Club to meet

Lakeshore Youth Athletic Club will have a Club meeting on March 23, 2004 at 7pm, in The Lakeshore Gym to elect new Board Members and Football Coaches.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Presenting some of the Finest Restaurants on the Mississippi Gulf Coast



Southern Delights owned and operated by Neil Favre is truly a treat for your taste buds. Favre opened the restaurant only two months ago and already has a loyal following and an excellent reputation for providing really delicious food at reasonable prices.

Every dish is freshly prepared to order and the portions are more than generous. Take for example the crab stuffed mushroom appetizer, you will receive six of these for only \$5. Be sure to try the spinach-artichoke dip served hot with chips for only \$4. Seafood gumbo, some of the best I've ever had, is available daily as well as a soup of the day.

If you are trying to eat light, order one of Southern Delights fantastic salads. Boiled shrimp salad, grilled or fried shrimp salad, or the grilled, fried or blackened chicken salad are all excellent choices.

Southern Delights also grills steaks! Choose a 6 oz or 12 oz ribeye prepared to perfection served with choice of potato served with vegetable and salad for a reasonable \$8 for the 6 oz and only \$12 for the 12 oz.

Southern Delights has some of the most delicious specialty dishes such as the snapper, the grilled tuna or the stuffed crab

platter. The fried seafood plates are generous, especially the seafood platter. It consists of catfish, shrimp, oysters, frog legs, delicately fried to a golden brown served with Favre's famous stuffed crab, delicious! Of course Southern Delights serves all of your favorite traditional po-boys and sandwiches, and some not so traditional like the portabella mushroom sandwich. (You just have to try it, it's really good!) Favre selects a lunch and a dinner special which changes daily except on Mondays, that's red beans and rice day, of course.

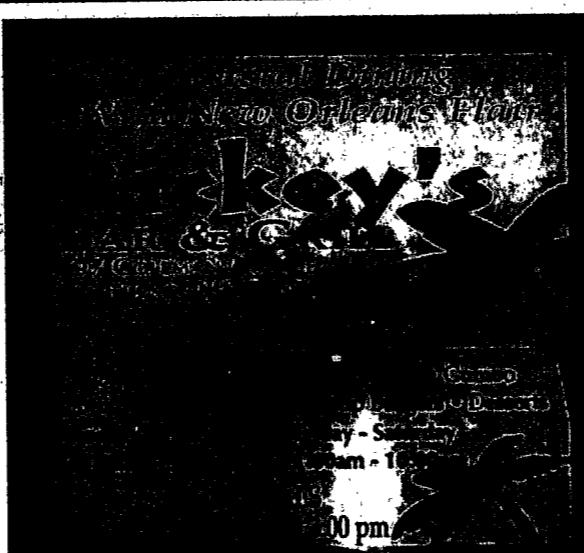
Lunch is served Monday through Saturday and dinner is served Wednesday through Saturday. Make plans to bring the family to the newly renovated Southern Delights at 299B Hwy 90, corner of Dunbar and Hwy 90 in Bay St. Louis. You'll be glad you did!

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Echo staff photos by Bennie Shallbetter

Play tough!

Casino Magic

Community

THURSDAY MARCH 18, 2004

PAGE 1B

Canine units from around the country flood Hancock County

Story and photos by Bennie Shallbetter

If it seemed that a police car was following you everywhere you went this week, you're not alone.

Close to a hundred law enforcement officers from the federal to the local level traveled from across the country to the Bay St. Louis-Waveland area to participate in the U.S. Police Canine Association 2004 National Detector Dog Trials held this week. It is the first time the event has been held in Mississippi.

Dogs and their human partners competed in three detector categories, drugs, explosives, and cadaver searches in both indoor and outdoor settings. The dogs were judged for timing and accuracy among other standards.

Paul Cox and his canine partner Dar helped coordinate the event. Cox has been with the Bay St. Louis Police Department for about 11 years and a canine partner for about five and a half years. He and Dar have been together for about two years. Dar was imported from Czechoslovakia. Hancock County's other canine officer Dax, works with Hancock County Sheriff's Department Deputy Jimmy Esposito.

Shepherds are the primary choice for a detector dog, though labs and retrievers and other breeds are also used. German, Dutch, or Czech Shepherds are widely used. Dogs generally have a working life of about six to seven years, but some may work longer. Dogs have helped their human counterparts throughout history and are widely used in combat situations.

Working with the dogs has to be a passion, said Cox, requiring a love of animals and a lot of dedication to the daily training routines that must be maintained. Most dogs are trained to the language of their country of origin, many in German or Czech, though some speak Dutch, or even English. About 90 to 95 percent of the detector dogs are imported, said Cox.

Training the dogs to respond to commands in another language serves to avoid any confusion in the field when a criminal or other person at the scene could give the dog a command. Responding only to commands in the language of its training helps the dog to maintain concentration. Concentration is the key to successful detection.

Dogs may receive specialized training for one particular type of detection or may serve on a broader spectrum. One of the reasons Dar was picked to serve the Bay area was because he was able to be socialized. He not only works on traffic patrol but he

also participates in general patrol work, agility and obedience work, suspect search, and criminal apprehension.

And of course he visits

area schools and children's groups.

He had to be a dog

that children could pet,

working in an area like

Hancock County, said Cox.

As a matter of fact, it was a

requirement of the city.

"The decision on which dog to pick was left totally up to me," said Cox. "With one requirement, that the dog be social. For me this is not just about being a police officer, but about being an ambassador for the city.

When Dar goes into a school

setting he knows and he can

come right out of that set-

ting and go to work."

Sgt. Michael Nelson was in town for the competitions from Huntsville, AL with his dog Tico. The two are military police. Tico is trained to detect explosives. Nelson volunteered to be a part of the canine program about two years ago. The training routine is a day in

detector dogs showed up for the trials, cadaver dogs, trained for the job of crime scene investigation. These were the dogs used at the Oklahoma City bombing and at the World Trade Center. Special Agent Ann-Margret Hinkle worked at both locations and many more in her capacity as crime scene investigator and at the Trade Center with her canine partner.

She has worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation for 13 yrs, and with detector dogs since 1999, beginning her career in law enforcement as a police dispatcher. She has been working with her present dog, a British yellow lab named Buddy, for about six months.

Unlike some detector dogs, cadaver dogs come without any scent training, Hinkle said. The trainer "puts the scent on the dog."

Cadaver work is very specialized and dogs are able to detect remains with as little as a drop of blood or other bodily fluids. Though there are a finite number of chemicals scents that a drug or explosive dog must learn, a cadaver dog must learn to recognize as many as 300 to 350 different chemical scents from the human body. And those chemicals can combine in many different ways in a decomposing body, she said.

But, Hinkle said, the dog is only one of the tools she uses when she arrives at a crime scene. The dogs are not magic and there is always the danger that their abilities will be overestimated. Detector work is a science and a technique, not magic, she said.

Preparing for the work is the hardest part of the job, said Hinkle. Sometime a suspect will give law enforcement officers a general location of a possible victim. It could be a field or acres of land. If the soil is red or black clay, for instance, which acts as a ziplock bag for scents, the officer must first go through and vent the area to release scents for the dog.

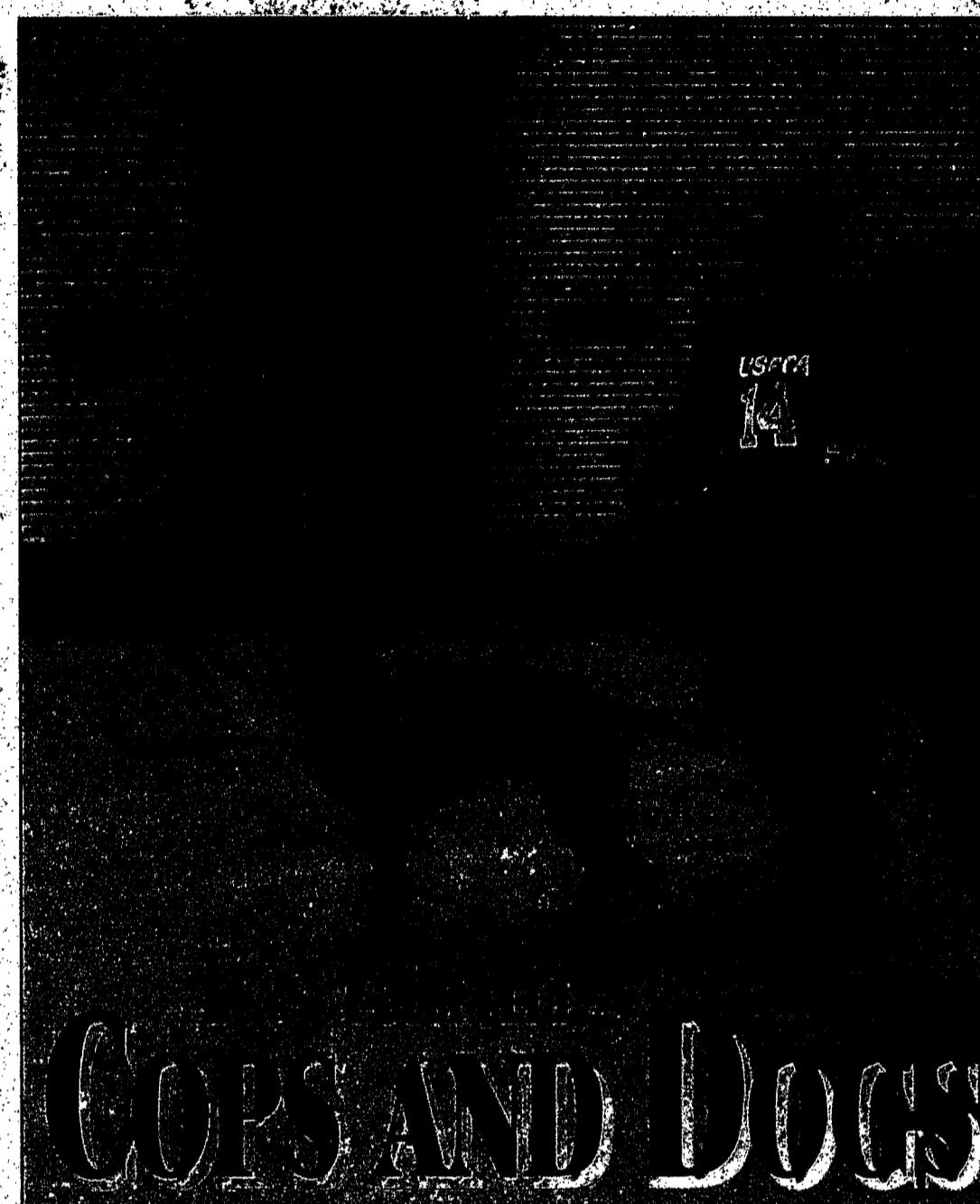
The dogs are trained off a reward system and so the dog will respond to whoever gives that reward, they say.

The dog is trained to perform certain search patterns and save countless human work hours. Like all detector dogs, the dogs are trained to scents.

One of the officers, a woman and a rarity in canine detector work, said she received mixed signals when she decided to give detector work a try two years ago. Some of her superiors were encouraging but most said she would never be able to stick out for the training time.

"But I proved them all wrong and I will be here for as long as they'll have me," she said. "My dog is like a partner; when I'm driving he's riding."

Two very specialized



Dogs performed in competitions this week in the art of drug, explosive and cadaver detection.



Special agent Ann-Margret Hinkle and her cadaver detector dog Buddy, who is scented to help Hinkle in her job as a crime scene investigator for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Close to a hundred law enforcement officers came from all over the country this week to the Bay St. Louis Waveland area to compete in the United States Police Canine Association 2004 National Detector Dog Trials this week.

Detector dogs are trained to recognize a number of scents and perform search routines. This weeks competitions concentrated of timing, technique and accuracy. Each dog had its own search style.



The SeaCoast Echo

Spring Car Care

Routine maintenance keeps your car safe

Preventive and routine maintenance of your vehicle is essential to keep it running in tip-top shape, not to mention keeping you and your passengers as safe as possible while driving. Here are a few tips you can follow, as recommended by Shell, from its "Smart Car Care" booklet written with assistance from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, the Federal Highway Administration and the National Safety Council.

• Keep your vehicle well oiled.

A regular oil change is the service most likely to prolong the life of your vehicle. Infrequent changes will cause additives in the oil to break down, leading to increased wear and tear on your engine.

To keep your vehicle running smoothly:

- Check the oil level regularly. For an accurate reading of your oil level, shut off the engine, remove the dipstick, wipe it with a clean cloth or paper towel and then reinsert it. Remove the dipstick again to "read" the oil level.

- Change the oil every 3,000 miles or every three months, whichever comes first, unless your manufacturer recommends otherwise. Some newer vehicles need less frequent oil changes.

- Replace the oil filter with every change.

- Check fluids regularly.

Engine oil is not the only fluid your vehicle needs to run properly. Other vital fluids include brake fluid, power steering fluid, transmission fluid and coolant. Checking them regularly can prevent breakdowns and costly repairs. Your owner's manual can show you where fluids are, how to check them, the type your vehicle uses and how much should be in each "reservoir."

- Make sure your battery is working properly.

Many people never think of vehicles as being "electronic," but they are complex machines with many electronic components, ranging from the radio to onboard computers. The battery provides the primary source of power for these electronic components, so it is important to make sure it is working properly. Batteries fail for

various reasons, including insecure mounting, frequent "deep cycling" (the recharging of a dead battery) and dirty or poor connections. Have the battery checked with every oil change, but don't wait until your battery fails before you replace it. Vehicles that are three years old or older are most likely to experience battery failure.

- Check wipers and washer fluid periodically.

Ninety percent of all driving decisions are based solely on visual cues. That's why car-care experts recommend wipers be changed once a year for cars that are parked inside and two to three times a year for cars that are parked outside. Inspect the wiper blades whenever you clean your windshield.

But, do not wait until the rubber is worn or brittle to replace them. A blade is wearing out if it streaks and smears the water rather than wiping it away. Most of the time, only the rubber squeegee, usually called the "refill," needs to be replaced. Take the old rubber squeegee with you to the store if you are buying a blade so you can compare sizes.

- Make sure all lights are in working order.

Lights are one of your vehicle's most important safety features. They help you and other drivers make decisions based on visual cues. However, recent statistics indicate that 20 percent of vehicles tested are operating with at least one external light not functioning. Therefore, it is important to check your lights often to ensure they are clean and in good working order. Inspect headlights (both low and high beams), parking lights, blinkers, taillights and brake lights.

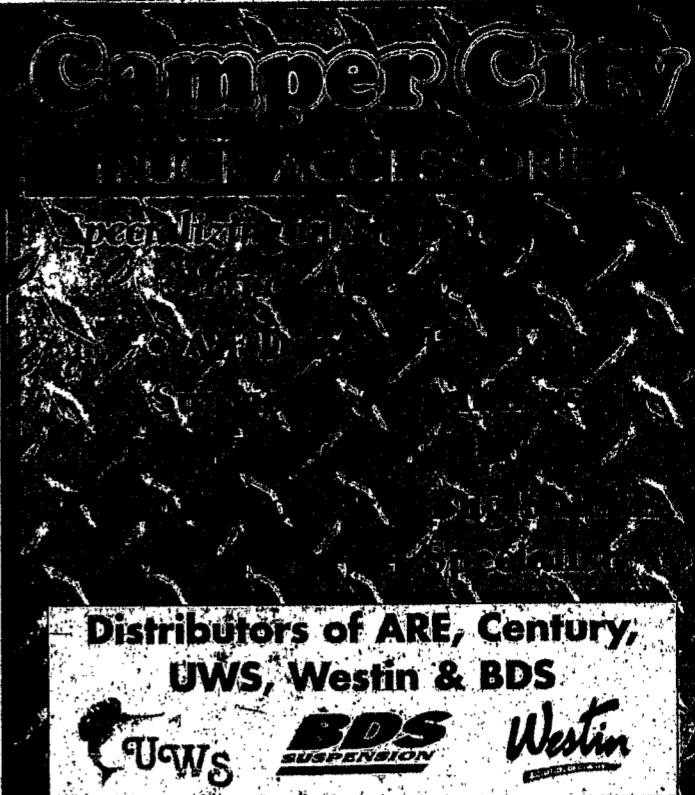
- Pay attention to your tires.

Many factors affect the life of your tires: weather, inflation, vehicle, alignment and wheel balance. Perhaps the easiest factor to control is your driving behavior. Practice good driving habits like these to help extend the life of your tires:

- Obey posted speed limits.
- Avoid fast starts, stops and turns.
- Avoid potholes and other objects on the road.
- Do not run over curbs or hit your tires against the curb when parking.
- Do not overload your vehicle. Refer to your vehicle's tire information or owner's manual for the maximum recommended load.

You also should check your tires — including the spare — at least once a month for proper inflation and tread wear. A tire can deflate about one pound per square inch (psi) for every 10°F drop in temperature. When the temperature rises, pressure may increase. Check your tires when they are cold — that is, when your vehicle has not been used for at least three hours. For proper tire inflation, refer to your owner's manual or the label

on the driver's side door edge or in the glove compartment of your vehicle. Don't be confused by the number molded into the sidewall of your tire; it is the tire's maximum — not recommended — inflation. While these tips will help lengthen the life of your vehicle and enhance the safety of its occupants, they are not a substitute for the recommendations of a qualified auto technician or your vehicle's owner's manual. Preventive maintenance will minimize the chance for breakdowns; it is important to be prepared by traveling with an emergency kit that includes water, jumper cables, flashlight, flares and basic tools — and a cell phone.



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Spring Car Care



MOTOR OILS and lubricants have many functions in your car's engine. That's why it's important to get educated on the basics.

Boost your car's performance with synthetic motor oils and lubricants

Motor oils serve a variety of functions in your car's engine. In addition to lubricating and cooling engine parts, motor oil promotes easy starting, protects the engine from corrosion and oxidation, keeps the engine clean, forms a tight seal between piston rings and cylinder walls and helps the engine use fuel efficiently.

In recent years, there has been a steady rise in the use of synthetic motor oils because of their superior performance benefits. What follows is a presentation of information on synthetic motor oils and lubricants courtesy of AMSOIL INC., a manufacturer of the first synthetic motor oil for automobiles in 1972.

Q: What is the difference between conventional and synthetic motor oil?

A: Conventional lubricants are refined from crude oil which has thousands of types of molecules. Refining is the physical separation of the impurities of the oil and the separation of the light and heavy components. Because refining separates products by weight, it groups molecules of similar weight and dissimilar structure. The result is a lubricant with an assortment of molecules. Some of the substances in crude oil are detrimental to lubrication. Paraffins, for example, are a common conventional oil contaminant that causes motor oil to thicken in cold temperatures. Synthetic motor oils are made from pure chemi-

cals, not refined crude. Their components are chemically reacted to produce finished products with pre-designed performance characteristics. Because of their molecular uniformity, they excel in reducing friction, which improves fuel efficiency, controls heat and reduces wear. This molecular uniformity also helps synthetics resist thinning in hot temperatures and thickening in cold.

Q: My friend says synthetic oils are better for the environment than conventional oil because of their superior disposal characteristics. What follows is a presentation of information on synthetic motor oils and lubricants courtesy of AMSOIL INC., a manufacturer of the first synthetic motor oil for automobiles in 1972.

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Synthetic oils are more impervious to this kind of degradation. The lower volatility of synthetics is another reason they are better for the environment than conventional products.

Q: Are there any advantages to conventional petroleum oils?

A: Petroleum-based motor oils have an initial price advantage over synthetics. In advancing the cost issue, remember that even the most expensive motor oil is cheaper than engine repairs caused by inadequate metal-to-metal protection or general lubricant failure. Synthetics have been proven to give superior year-round protection and performance.

When motorists evaluate their lubricant costs on a per year or per mile basis, rather than on the basis of cost per oil change, synthetic motor oils with extended drain intervals are found to cost less than conventional motor oils.

Q: Will synthetic motor oils void my warranty?

A: No. Manufacturers call for API SL-rated motor oil of specific viscosity grades and usually do not distinguish between conventional or synthetic lubricants. However, some high-performance cars, like the Chevrolet Corvette, are filled with synthetic motor oil at the factory and recommend the use of synthetics.

Synthetics lubricants should also be used in the transmission of your tow vehicles as well. Pulling cars and rigs to the track put extra demands on transmissions and petroleum tranny fluid breaks down more quickly under these conditions. Synthetic-based transmission fluids last up to three times longer than their conventional counterparts.

Q: I know synthetic motor oil is better in winter cold, but how do they benefit people who live in hot weather climates like in Arizona or South Texas?

A: Oil volatility is the measure of how susceptible an oil is to boil-off under high heat conditions. Most petroleum oils experience significant boil-off during high temperature engine operation and are expelled into the environment. The thicker oil left behind contributes to damaging deposits, sticky piston rings and oil blow-by, all contributing to reduced life and drag on performance.



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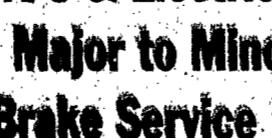
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Spring Car Care

How to lengthen the life of your tires

Like most of us, we buy a set of tires, have them put on our car and then forget about them until our next inspection rolls around or until we notice they need air or we get a flat. We should be checking our vehicle's tires more often to make sure they are fit for the road and to ensure their longevity. Here is a checklist, courtesy of Shell, on what you can do to make sure you get the longest life out of them.

PRESSURE

One-fourth of all cars and one-third of all light trucks have at least one substantially underinflated tire. These tires can cause blowouts and tire failure, which can cause serious accidents. And appearances can be deceiving — a tire can lose up to half of its air pressure without appearing flat. Overinflation, on the other hand, puts unnecessary stress on tires, which

can result in irregular tread wear. Check tire inflation with an accurate gauge, which can be found in any auto parts store and most service stations.

ALIGNMENT

Improper alignment of your car's steering mechanisms — including the front and rear tires and the steering wheel — can reduce the lifespan of your tires by thousands of miles. Have a tire dealer check the alignment if you notice:

- Excessive or uneven tire wear;
- The steering wheel "pulling" to the right or the left;
- A feeling of "looseness" or "wandering";
- Steering wheel vibration;
- The steering wheel is not centered when the car is moving straight ahead.

ROTATION

If you fail to rotate your tires, the front tires may last 10,000 to 20,000 miles,

while the rear tires will last 50,000 to 80,000 miles. To achieve more uniform wear, experts recommend that you rotate your tires every 6,000 miles. Refer to your vehicle's owner's manual for correct pattern rotation. Common patterns include straight forward and straight back or crisscrossed.

TREAD

Advanced and unusual wear can reduce the ability of tread to grip the road in adverse conditions — especially on wet roads.

When checking tires, look for uneven wear, high and low areas, bubbling or excessively smooth areas, as well as cuts or foreign objects.

Tires must be replaced when tread has worn down to 1/16 of an inch. If you don't have a measurement device, use a penny to check tread depth. Insert a penny with the head pointed down into the tread groove. If you can see all of Lincoln's head,

your tires need to be replaced.

When shopping for new tires, it's best to replace all four at the same time — if you have been rotating your tires as recommended. You should also think about the type of driving you do most often — highways, rural back roads or the like — and choose tires that are right for you.

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Change a tire yourself!

More likely than not, you will find yourself with a flat tire no matter how careful you are. What if the flat occurs when you are by yourself and have no one else to help you? You can always call an automobile club like AAA that offers road-side assistance, if you are enrolled in one. But if not, you are on your own. Now is an ideal time to learn how to change that tire all by yourself.

These simple steps from Shell, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, the Federal Highway Administration and the National Safety Council will prevent you from panicking if you get a flat.

1. Pull off the road and stop in a safe place. Put the car in park on level ground if possible and apply the parking brake. If your car has a standard transmission, place the gear shift in reverse or first gear.

2. Retrieve the spare tire, jack and lug wrench. Remove hub caps with the lug wrench.

3. Loosen each lug nut one turn counterclockwise while the car is still on the ground.

4. Place the jack under the reinforced section of the car's body. (The location of these sections is listed in your owner's manual.) Jack up the car until the flat tire is several inches off the ground. **WARNING:** Never



CHANGING A FLAT TIRE is an important skill for all drivers to know.

place your hands or feet under the vehicle or tire once it has been raised.

5. Remove the lug nuts and the wheel.

6. Place the spare tire on the axle and align the holes. Replace the lug nuts and

screw each on lightly.

7. Lower the car, and remove the jack. Then use the wrench to firmly tighten each lug nut.

8. Have the flat tire repaired or replaced and reinstalled.

To lease or not to lease?

According to the National Automobile Dealers Association, more and more consumers are leasing vehicles instead of buying them.

It has its advantages — monthly lease payments are usually lower than monthly finance payments on the same vehicle.

That's why leases are appealing to people who trade in their cars regularly, use their car for business or need a car for a specific time frame. Leasing a car does come with disadvantages. It's not something you own, so you must return it at the end of the lease.

Additional fees may also be tacked on if you surpass

the mileage limit in the lease.



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Spring Car Care

Secrets to saving money at the pump

With fuel prices on the rise and concerns about future availability, you're probably searching for ways to conserve as much gas as possible. Get more mileage for your money with these easy tips, courtesy of Amsoil Inc.

1. Drive with caution. Don't exceed highway speed limits. Use moderate-to-easy acceleration. Gas mileage is negatively affected by fast acceleration and fast deceleration. If possible, use cruise control on highway trips. Maintaining a constant speed helps reduce fuel consumption.

2. Maintain a properly tuned engine. Dirty spark plugs do not create the maximum spark and cause reduced horsepower and increased emissions.

3. Go easy on the air conditioning. Limit use of air conditioning, especially on summer days.

4. Use synthetic lubricants. Switch to synthetic motor oil and drivetrain lubricants. Independent tests show savings of up to 5 percent using Amsoil synthetic motor oil, gear lubes and ATF.

5. Maintain your car's air filter. Install a new air filter instead. To get optimal efficiency from your engine, it needs to breathe.

6. Take advantage of aerodynamics. Keep windows rolled up if you are travelling over 40 mph. At highway speeds, traveling with the windows open can



THERE ARE SOME simple ways to get the most gas for your money.

create a wind drag that will lower your mileage. Sunroofs also disturb smooth aerodynamic air flow and reduce mileage.

Avoid using a roof rack; you can reduce aerodynamic drag and improve fuel economy by placing items inside the trunk whenever possible.

7. Take good care of your tires. Make sure your tires are properly inflated, and keep them balanced and rotated regularly. Use radial tires for less friction between tire and road. Also,

make sure the front end is aligned for better mileage and a longer tire life.

8. Avoid excess weight. Pack light and clean out your trunk periodically. You would be surprised how many unnecessary items most people keep in their trunks.

Every 200 pounds of unnecessary weight shaves 1 mile per gallon off your gas mileage.

9. Minimize idling. One minute of idling uses more fuel than restarting your engine. When possible, avoid drive-throughs. Idling for as little as 10 minutes while you wait in line can waste 5 or 6 miles of gas. Limit warm-ups to 30 seconds.

10. Plan trips in advance. Make a list of errands and try to take care of as many as possible on the same trip.

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Get tuned-in to your car stereo

Road trip season is approaching, and no highway outing is complete without a killer stereo to blast your favorite tunes. With continued advancements in car stereos and audio technology, this spring may be a good time to upgrade. Building a car stereo system is a balance of tech gadgetry, audio engineering and physics. With so many options on the market, the task of choosing the right car stereo can be daunting. Get tuned in with this primer on the basic components:

HEAD UNIT

What we most often think of as the "car stereo" is called the head unit — the knobs and buttons that connect you to the rest of the system. Choice here mostly comes down to user friendliness and personal preference. Look for controls that are easy to see and use, and think about how you will use them while driving. If you have a CD player, make sure it reads all disc formats, including CD-R and CD-RW.

Many head units offer the ability to play mini-disks, MP3s and even DVDs. Satellite radio is also gaining popularity with its sports programs and commercial-free radio for cars and homes.

SPEAKERS

The speakers are what move the sound to your ears. Many factors ultimately determine what kind of speakers you need, but there are a few general guidelines. Look for speakers with a high sensitivity rating, which means that the speaker will play louder using the same power as a speaker with a lower rating. For serious audiophiles, no car audio system is complete without subwoofers, which are like window-rattling speakers. Humans can hear higher-pitched sounds better than lower-pitched

ones; for lower-range sound frequencies to be heard at the same level, they require more power and bigger speakers.

AMPLIFIERS

To achieve sound that can be felt as well as heard, an amplifier is an absolute necessity. Through a complex system of physics, amplifiers do exactly what their name implies — they amplify the power of the signal (measured in watts) going to the speakers. While amps are best known for generating head-turning power, they can also achieve a cleaner sound and increased clarity. However, be warned that it's easy to spend too much for too little.

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Sports

Bay, Hancock & SSC cagers claim All-State team selections

BY JOSEPH W. GEX II

Staff Writer

For much of the past two weeks the state high school athletic focus has been the 2004 MHSAA State High School Basketball Championships being held at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson. In all, 60 teams representing the five classifications for boys and girls earned their way to the "Big House."

Hancock County had three teams taking part in the state tournament - the St. Stanislaus Rock-a-chaws, the Bay High Lady Tigers and the Hancock Lady Hawks.

The Rocks (27-9) lost in the quarterfinals of the Class 4A boys tournament to the eventual state champion Jackson Provine Rams (32-6) 48-34. This was the third consecutive trip to the "Big House" and fourth under head coach Jay Ladner. SSC ended the season ranked #19 in the statewide poll and Provine finished #1.

The Bay High Lady Tigers (29-7) advanced to the girls 4A state title game for the third consecutive time losing 76-60 to Northeast Jones (32-8). Under the guidance of Debbie Triplett, the Lady Tigers have advanced to the state title game four times and claimed the 2003 state 4A championship. Bay High completed the season ranked #11 in the statewide poll while Northeast Jones was #2.

The Hancock Lady Hawks (29-4) claimed the girls 5A state title on Saturday with a convincing 60-46 win over the two-time defending state champion Jackson Murrah Lady Mustangs (29-7). It was the third consecutive trip to the state tournament under Pam Slayton and the first state title for Hancock in girls basketball since repeat titles in 1979 and 1980. Hancock ended the season ranked #4 statewide and Murrah ended #7.

Several area players have earned post-season honors and awards for their accomplishments during the season.

For St. Stanislaus, Darius Acker became the second Rock-a-chaw to play in the Mississippi-Alabama All Star Classic on March 27th in Felham. SSC head coach Jay Ladner stated, "This is a great way for Darius Acker to end a grand career... For an individual, this is the highest honor in the state." Acker averaged 19.4 points, 5.6 rebounds, 4.9 assists and 3.9 steals per game.

Acker, a 5-10 shooting guard, will join Michael Harmon (6-3, Columbus), Christian Marshall (6-9, Jackson Wingfield), Jordan Payne (6-4, Heidelberg), Charles Rhodes (6-9, Jackson Lanier), Bernard Rimmer (6-7, Grenada), Henry Salter (6-4, Gulfport), Stanford Speech (6-1, Jim Hill), Brandon Tate (6-4, Noxubee County), Charles Thomas (6-8, Jackson Callaway), Charlie White (5-10, Jackson

Provine), and Tarrell Wilson (6-8, Holly Springs) on the team. Hampton talked about Acker. "Darius Acker has been in a program that has been coached extremely well by Jay Ladner. He can shoot the ball very well and can handle the flow of a game. He understands the game like a coach does. He will be like another coach on the floor."

The North-South All-Star game will take on a different format this season. This year, the game will feature the state's rising seniors in an all-star game format to be played in front of college coaches in July.

SSC's Ramsey Shawa was chosen for the team. Shawa, a 6-6 forward, will join South team members Joffrey Allen (5-10, Columbia), David Clark (6-6, Lawrence County), Craigory Craft (6-0, Raleigh), Alex Ford (6-5, Northeast Lauderdale), Donnairies Hair (6-8, Picayune), Tony Hobson (6-2, Jim Hill), Darrell Johnson (6-0, Mendenhall), Justin Lewis (6-5, Lawrence County), Uriel Ramsey (6-5, Stone County), Oscar Rayford (5-10, West Marion), and Reggie Shellwood (6-2, Bay Springs).

The coaches for the South team are Gene Britt of Loyd Star and Tony Woody of Columbia. Ladner commented, "This is a credit to the way Ramsey Shawa ended the year. He finished very strong."

As the games became more high profile, he stepped up his level of play." During the season, Shawa averaged 7.6 points and 6.9 rebounds per game.

Darius Acker was also named to the 4A All-State Tournament team in 2004.

For Bay High, Kendra Reed, Destiny Porter and Felicia Thomas were all named to the girls 4A All-State Tournament team. Also, both Reed and Porter were named the All-State team chosen by the AP.

Reed, a 5-10 junior forward, averaged 22.1 points, 7.0 rebounds, and 3.2 steals per game. She was also chosen as a Dandy Dozen pick this season - one of only three juniors on the team. Reed, an all-around scholar athlete, led her volleyball team to the state semi-finals in 2003 and will also join the Lady Tigers on the diamond for fast-pitch softball in the spring.

Porter, a 5-11 junior forward, averaged 15 points and 7.3 rebounds per game in 2004. Thomas, the lone lady Tiger senior and a 5-7 shooting guard, averaged 10 points and 3 steals per game in 2004.

The Lady Hawks will be represented at the Mississippi-Alabama All Star game on March 27th by 5-7 senior guard Brooke Necaise. She averaged 16 points and 3 assists per game while shooting 80% from the free-throw line and 54% from beyond the arc. Necaise was also chosen 5A All-State Tournament team, first-team All-State Class 5A by the Mississippi

Association of Coaches, and was the recipient of the United States Marine Corps "Top Dog" Award presented at the MHSAA State Tournament on Saturday - the only female chosen from 30 girls' teams in the tournament.

She was also named 5A Player of the Year by the MAC.

Necaise will be joined on the team by Dee Forrest (6-1, Louisville), Monchelle Howard (5-3, Durant), Miyorka Johnson (5-10, Ripley), Janie Mitchell (6-1, Jackson Callaway), Amy Reeder (5-11, Pontotoc), Diamond Rogers (5-11, Jackson Murrah), Whitney Shepard (5-8, Cleveland), Michelle Spires (5-11, Yazoo County), Ashton Washington (5-11, McAdams), Ratassia Worsham (5-9, Wayne County), and Tierra Young (5-7, South Leake). The head coach for the team is Shelia Hickman of Louisville. Donny Fuller of Warren Central is the assistant coach and Nanci Gray of Tupelo is the administrative coach.

Hancock head coach Pam Slayton commented, "This is a very well-deserved honor for Brooke Necaise. It does not come as a surprise but is an honor that is bestowed on a player of her caliber. This is a fun thing to do as an individual but this award is also symbolic of the program, as well."

Hancock Lady Hawk junior forward Ashley Boehnel was chosen for the North-South All-Star game. The 5-10 forward averaged 12.1 points, 4.8 rebounds and 2.9 assists per game. She also led the team with 102 steals on the year and was named to the 5A All-State Tournament team.

Slayton talked about Boehnel, "She showed that she can be a hard-working talented player, especially in the state tournament. Her

defensive game stepped up a level late in the year and really improved, this honor comes as a result of her hard work during the season."

The second team All-State selection will be joined on the South team by LaReina Adams (5-8, St. Andrew's), Shaquita Bell (5-8, Northeast Lauderdale), Latoya Branch (5-10, Gulfport), Chantay Frazier (5-7, Choctaw Central), Brittany Fultz (5-8, South Pike), Jeuna Hutchison (5-10, Sumrall), Cookie Johnson (5-10, Warren Central), Kristi Martin (5-7, Bay Springs), Chinita Steele (6-0, Perry Central), Britta Stephens (5-7, North Pike), and Dominique Whitfield (5-10, Crystal Springs). The head coach for the South team is John Stephens of North Pike. Walter Wilson of Choctaw Central will serve as the assistant coach.

Courtney Craft, a 5-7 senior point guard for Hancock, was named to the 5A All-State Tournament team. Craft averaged 8.7 points and 4.1 assists per game. She also shot 41% from beyond the arc.

The coast enjoyed a sweep of Class 5A in the state tournament as Biloxi won the boys' title and Hancock brought home the girls' title. In Class 4A, Northeast Jones took control of the gold ball and Jackson Provine repeated as the 4A boys' champion. The 3A classification boys' title went to Holly Springs while Choctaw Central repeated as the girls' winner. In Class 2A, Hollandale-Simmons brought home the hardware for the boys' and Bay Springs claimed their third state title in girls' basketball. Class 1A Benoit Brooks defeated Byers for the championship and West Lowndes won the girls' trophy.

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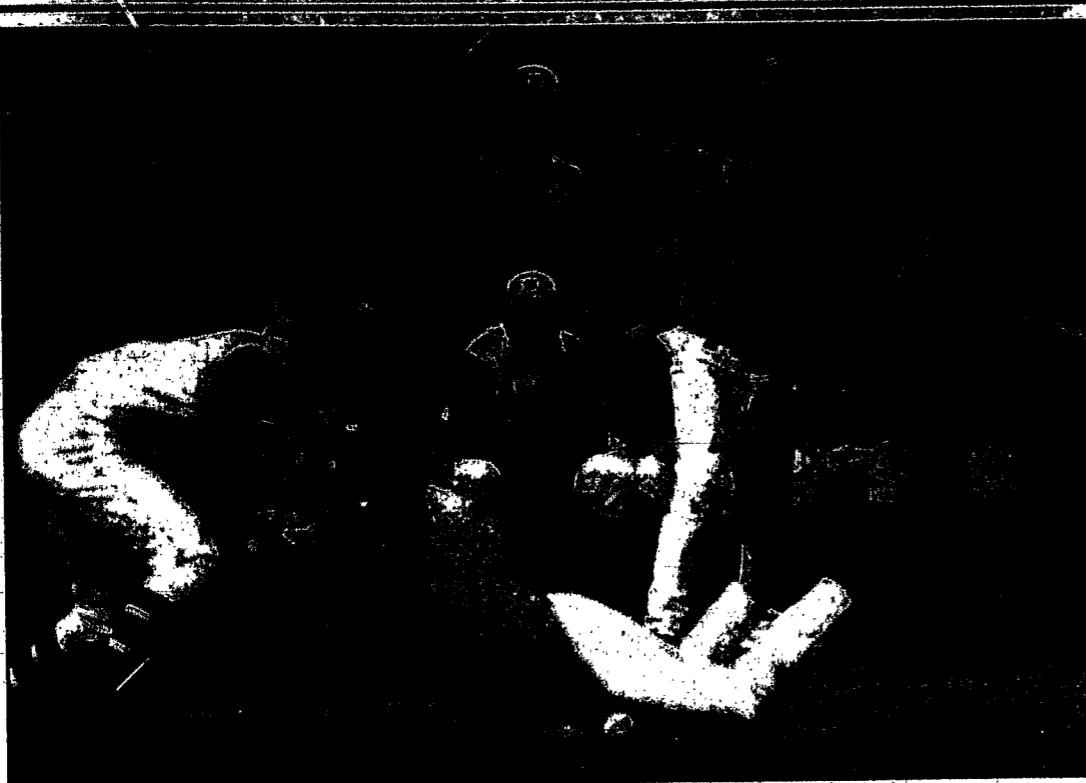


Photo by B.R. Hawkins
Bay High's Corbin Blaze signals that his teammate is "safe" after sliding into homeplate on Tuesday night.

SSC downs Bay on diamond 2-1; Lewis breaks two records

BY JOSEPH W. GEX II
Staff Writer

The Bay High Tigers and the St. Stanislaus Rock-a-chaws met for the first time on the baseball diamond this year in a division contest on Tuesday, March 16th.

There was a packed house to see a highly competitive rivalry game that literally came to the bottom of the seventh inning.

The Rocks (5-8, 2-2) defeated the Tigers (5-6, 1-3) 2-1 in the bottom frame on a game-winning RBI single by B.J. Ladner. Ladner's hit to leftfield scored Brooks Breland to end the game. It was the second consecutive division win for SSC and a sophomore was responsible for the game-winning hit. Last week, Lance Cuevas had the game-winner against D'Iberville.

Tim Kulikowski was the winning pitcher for the Rocks who struck out seven Tigers and scattered six hits over a complete game.

Bay High head coach Mike Weems stated, "Tim Kulikowski did a good job. He battled with runners in scoring position. As the game progressed, he found his breaking ball. We made some baserunning mistakes in the game; however, some of those ended up working in our favor. This was a good rivalry game and a nice crowd turned out to see some good baseball."

The Rocks got their first run in the bottom of the third inning on a two-out RBI single by Spencer Ziegler.

Bay High answered in the top of the fourth inning when BJ Corr led off with a double. Kyle Sick hit a ball to the first baseman who opted to throw to third to get the runner. A throwing

error by SSC to second base in an attempt to get Sick allowed Corr to score from third base to tie the game at 1-1.

SSC head coach Mark Logan commented, "I can't say enough about Tim Kulikowski who battled on the mound tonight. He pitched his way out of several situations tonight. Spencer Ziegler made a diving catch in rightfield to hold a Bay High runner at third. B.J. Ladner had a big hit for us late in the game.

We are getting some good senior leadership that is carrying over to our younger players. We are learning how to win. If we continue to win some games like tonight, it will have a big impact on our younger players down the line."

The Tigers had an opportunity in the top of the seventh inning when Justin Cook led off with a single and advanced to second base on a sacrifice bunt by Trevor Adam.

Corr got on base after being hit by a pitch. Kyle Sick hit a fly ball to rightfield where Ziegler made his diving catch to hold Cook at third base.

Kulikowski struck out Ryan Dedeaux to retire the side and set up the seventh inning for SSC.

Robbie Pitre led Bay High with two hits while Brooks Breland went 3-for-4 for SSC with a double and two singles. Ladner also had two hits in the contest.

Over the weekend, the Rocks were swept by Gulfport while Pass Christian took two games from Columbia.

The Pirates won the first game 11-6 behind the arm of Ben Malley who scattered seven hits and retired five on strikeouts. Cory Ladner,

Chris Dahl and Derek Palmer all had two hits for the Pirates while Dustin Allen homered and tallied four RBIs.

Derek Palmer connected on a game-winning triple in the nightcap to give Pass Christian the 5-4 victory. Ladner, Allen and Palmer each had three hits in the game while Brett Sanders struck out 11 batters against just four hits.

Long Beach turned back Hancock 6-2 on Saturday.

The St. Stanislaus Rock-a-chaws track team traveled to Fountainbleau on Saturday, March 13 for an invitational meet.

Senior distance runner and Ole Miss signee Kyle Lewis broke two school records at the meet and was named the meet's Outstanding Track Runner.

Lewis broke his own 3200m record with a first place time of 9:35.57 which surpassed his previous best of 9:36.30.

Lewis ran a record pace in the 1600m with a top finishing time of 4:25.87. That time eclipsed the former record of 4:28.40 held by former SSC great Brian Brooks.

Nick Weinmann won the shotput with a throw of 49'10 3/4". The last time a thrower threw over 50-feet in the shotput was in 1997 when Ben Guy threw 50'4". The school record is 54'6" held by Mike Meyers.

The Rocks finished 7th out of 16 teams in the meet.

SSC head coach Steve Flannery stated, "I am pleased with our performance this early in the season. We had some solid displays today that we can build on as we progress through the season. However, we still have plenty of work to do."

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- 34 Personals
- 36 Special Notices
- BUSINESS & SERVICES**
- 46 Home Improvement
- 53 Schools & Instruction
- 56 Services Offered
- 58 Lawn & Garden
- EMPLOYMENT**
- 63 Business Opportunities
- 66 Child Care
- 70 Employment
- 73 Help Wanted
- 76 Situation/Job Wanted
- MERCHANDISE**
- 81 Appliances
- 82 Antiques, Collectibles
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